

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claims 1-17. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. For the sake of expediting issuance of this case, claims 18-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of breadth similar to those of claims 18-30 in one or more continuation applications. No claims have been amended or added. Therefore, claims 1-17 now are presented for examination.

Double Patenting

Claims 18-19 are rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,632,704.

Claims 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 18-23 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carney et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,895,229 ("Carney") in view of Chia et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,081,997 ("Chia").

Claims 18-23 and 27-29 have been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 24-26 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carney et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,895,229 (“Carney”) in view of Chia et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,081,997 (“Chia”) and in further view of Baba et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,071,755 (“Baba”).

Claims 24-26 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.